

RECOGNIZING THE RANCHO BUENA VISTA LITTLE LEAGUE ALL STAR TEAM AND THEIR COACHES

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Rancho Buena Vista Little League all star team and their coaches. I want to congratulate them on an outstanding performance at the recent Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

I want to recognize Manager Marty Miller and Coaches Joe Pimentel and Randy Reznicek, whose years of service to the community through Little League Baseball at Rancho Buena Vista have inspired many young athletes throughout our community. It is through the dedication, strength of character, and devotion of men like Marty, Joe and Randy that these young men have flourished, not only in athletic skill but in character.

The Rancho Buena Vista Little League team won 25 of the 26 games they played last season and made it to the United States Championship game. They displayed exemplary sportsmanship throughout both the regular season and during the Little League World Series. From the first pitch of the season to the Little League World Series finals, they played the game with dignity and won our respect in the process.

Unquestionably, the players on the Rancho Buena Vista Little League team are not only exceptional athletes but also exceptional young men. They played with resolve and focus in the face of spirited competition and I am proud to be their Representative, and to stand in their honor today, Mr. Speaker. Their accomplishments serve as an example of the positive impact that Little League baseball has on its young participants.

Once again I would like to congratulate the players on the Rancho Buena Vista Little League Team—Royce Copeland, Daniel Gibney, Danny Vivier, Johnny Lee, Josh Gomez, Aaron Kim, Kalen Pimentel, Austin White, Dylan de Meyer, Ryan Gura, Nathan Lewis, Reed Reznicek and their coaches—on their remarkable achievement. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding these young men for their exceptional accomplishments and continued success.

HONORING THE JACKSON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION FOR 55 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE PERFORMING ARTS AND DEDICATION TO THE JACKSON COMMUNITY

**HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jackson Symphony Orchestra Association for 55 years of beautiful music and a commitment to community service in Jackson County. I commend the Jackson Symphony Orchestra for both its high quality performing arts programs and its out-

reach to the community through concerts, music education, and partnerships with area educators and community service providers.

For more than five decades, the Jackson Symphony Orchestra has brought outstanding artists and a wide variety of music venues to Jackson audiences. Over the years, there have been numerous world premieres; performances in ballet, opera, and jazz; and an emphasis on works by 20th century composers.

The Jackson Symphony Orchestra Association champions the arts through music education. It operates a community music school that provides private instruction on all orchestral instruments, early childhood music classes, home school orchestras, a string academy, and after-school string instruction for children at risk. The Jackson Symphony Orchestra educational programming directly reaches over 1,500 young people each year and reaches an additional 4,000 families each year through family concerts, in-school performances, and special events.

Beyond the concert stage, the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, through its presence in the community, has created an environment that has contributed to the development of many local arts organizations. These include the Jackson Chorale, the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, and the Jackson Youth Symphony. The presence of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra is also regularly credited as a factor in attracting new business and key employees into the community.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor the Jackson Symphony Orchestra for its 55 years of dedication in the performing arts, as well as to the community. I commend their use of innovative programs which has provided musical education for the Jackson community. I expect the Jackson Symphony Orchestra to continue their path of excellence for years into the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTOPHER V. SEXTON, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Christopher V. Sexton, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students, who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Christopher is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Fort Worth—Panther

Branch. The organization graciously matched the federally funding with a \$500 contribution.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Christopher V. Sexton for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

FREEDOM FOR JULIO CÉSAR LÓPEZ RODRÍGUEZ

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Julio César López Rodríguez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. López Rodríguez is an independent librarian and pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba. According to Human Rights First, Mr. López Rodríguez is Vice President of the Frente Línea Dura movement and Director of its independent library. He is a longtime activist for democratic change.

Independent librarians in Cuba, such as Mr. López Rodríguez, provide the indispensable service of circulating truth at a time when the tyrannical regime provides only propaganda. These heroic librarians circulate important works, including literature written by authors such as George Orwell, Václav Havel, and Dr. Martin Luther King, whose works are among the classics of anti-totalitarian literature.

As part of the tyrant's heinous July 2005 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy opponents, on 22 July, Mr. López Rodríguez was arrested as he tried to participate in a peaceful demonstration outside the French Embassy in Havana, demanding the release of political prisoners in Cuba. As part of this vicious crackdown, approximately 30 brave opponents were arrested at home, on their way to the demonstration or on the sidelines of the gathering.

Mr. López Rodríguez is currently languishing in an abhorrent, inhuman cell in the totalitarian gulag. The State Department reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes. It is a crime of the highest order that people who work for freedom are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions.

Despite the regime's constant gangster style repression, freedom and democracy are on the march in Cuba. Courageous leaders like Mr. López Rodríguez defy the dictator's machinery of repression and, despite every threat and obstacle, demand liberty for the people of Cuba. Through their bravery, through their actions, and because of their unwavering commitment, and the works of thousands of other Cuban patriots, Cuba will be free again.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence, Mr. López Rodríguez languishes in the gulag because of his belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Julio César López Rodríguez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.